

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 MC-02
AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 EB-07 /115 W
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R 171158Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6279
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10151

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EG, IR, SO
SUBJECT: IRANIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL RE SOMALIA

1. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR BAHRAMY CALLED YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. FAHMY'S AIDE, USAMA AL-BAZ, HAD TOLD HIM GOE HAS SENT SMALL ARMS TO GDSR, BUT DECLINED TO PROVIDE LIST. BAHRAMY WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER GOE HAD CONSULTED WITH AND/OR OBTAINED OUR APPROVAL TO SEND SUCH ARMS.

2. I TOLD BAHRAMY THAT WE TOO HAD BEEN INFORMED BY GOE OF ARMS ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA. SUBJECT OF SOMALIA AND RELATED HORN OF AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS HAVE FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN RECENT DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. NOTING PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S ALLEGED DESIRE TO GET OUT FROM UNDER SOVIET YOKE, GOE HAS URGED THAT USG PROVIDE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO GDSR. SOMALIS HAVE ALSO DIRECTLY ASKED US FOR ARMS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. AS HE KNEW, THE NEW ADMINISTRATION DESIRES GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES AND HAS BEEN PREPARED TO EXPLORE WITH GDSR WAYS OF IMPROVING OUR RELATIONS. WE HAVE RECENTLY
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SENT ECONOMIC SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA TO STUDY SITUATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO HELP. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT ARMS MAY BE MORE OF A PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITY EXISTS OF SOME US PARTICIPATION IN A WESTERN ARMS CONSORTIUM. ALL THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GOE, BUT GOE AT NO TIME SOUGHT OR RECEIVED OUR APPROVAL FOR ITS ARMS

TRANSFERS TO GDSR.

3. BAHRAMY INDICATED THAT IRANIAN FONMIN KHALATBARY HAD RECENTLY VISITED SOMALIA ON INVITATION OF GDSR. SIAD BARRE HAD RECEIVED HIM, BUT NOTHING OF CONSEQUENCE HAD EMERGED FROM THE VISIT. SIAD BARRE HAD DENIED EXISTENCE OF SOVIET NAVAL FACILITIES. WHEN URGED BY KHALATBARY NOT TO PRESS OGADEN ISSUE, SIAD BARRE HAD GIVEN STRONG REPLY THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF GREAT NATIONAL CONCERN AND GDSR WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RECOVER THIS SOMALI SPEAKING AREA. BAHRAMY ADDED THAT SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO HAD RECENTLY EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO HIM TO VISIT MOGADISCIO, BUT THAT HE HAD REPLIED A RESIDENT IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IS BEING SENT THERE.

4. BAHRAMY CLAIMED THE SHAH IS VERY INTERESTED IN HORN OF AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS. HE COMPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET ANY HARD FACTS HERE. HE CONCLUDED WITH WHISPERED OBSERVATION, "IRAN DOES NOT TRUST ANY OF THE ARABS--EVEN THE EGYPTIANS."
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